



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

A QUERY AND THE REPLY

A Supervisor writes the Editor of the Journal on a topic which is of general interest.

THE QUERY

My dear Mr. Editor:

We have a band master in our city who insists upon paying *The Star-Spangled Banner* and *America* as Marches. You may think this a trivial matter for me to write about, but I have been trying to think of some tactful way to approach said band man. Several people have spoken to me about it, so I decided to write to you, who served on the National Committee. Is there anything in the proceedings of the Committee who revised *The Star-Spangled Banner* that says the Revisel form of the song is the only one to be used, etc? If so I can show him the revised version and what you say concerning its use, provided it be printed without change of melody, harmony or rhythm.

Are there any iron-clad rules, concerning the song, or do we simply have to appeal to their good judgment and patriotism to do just as they do in the Army and Navy?

I am glad to be able to tell you that all our teachers have fallen in nicely with new Service Version after faithfully teaching the version with no dotted notes. Assuring you I would appreciate an early reply to this letter, I am,

Very truly,

Supervisor of Music.

THE ANSWER

My dear Miss Supervisor: While the Service Version of *The Star-Spangled Banner* as printed in the latest edition of the pamphlet of Community Songs which C. C. Birchard & Co. publish for our National Conference of Music Supervisors has come nearer than any other version yet published to obtaining governmental sanction as the official version, it nor no other version has any such authority back of it. Congress or the President or the Secretaries of War and Navy, or whoever would be the proper authority for establishing the official version have never taken such action. This Service Version, details of whose origin may be found in the 1919 volume of proceedings of the Music Supervisors' National Conference, is, however, the one which was printed in the 3,000,000 song books which were published by the U. S. War Department and presented free of charge to all our soldiers. The same version was used in the song books for the Navy and Marines. The band books with which all government organizations were supplied use the Service Version. C. C. Birchard, Oliver Ditson, Silver, Burdett, American Book Company, Scott, Foresman, Ginn, and several other publishing companies use it exclusively in their new publications; the Victor and Columbia Phonograph Companies have records of this version, and it thus bids fair to have the widest use of any one version ever printed.

Regarding the use of *The Star-Spangled Banner* I may say that government bands are expressly forbidden to use it in any but its complete form as the national anthem. This, therefore, excludes its use in transcription, marches, etc. The Adjutant General, moreover, definitely states that while *The Star-Spangled Banner* is the official national anthem, *America* has gradually attained much the same character and is now generally afforded the same deferential recognition. This means, in the army, the standing at attention or salute (depending upon conditions) while it is being played or sung. It is to be hoped that throughout the country with the civilian population, both adults and children, the fine display of respect which obtains with men in the service, may become universal.

This answer of mine does not lay down the law to your bandmaster, but it gives, I trust, the facts which you can adopt to suit your particular needs.

Truly yours,

THE EDITOR.